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COMMANDER'S CALL
11 MARCH 2006

Attendees: Colonel Ann Clark, LT Colonel Jim Daigle, Major Karl Senior, Captain Peter Kelly, 1st LT Marilyn Kelly, 1st LT Steve Rabideau, LT Colonel David Campbell, Major Lloyd St. Louis, Esther Abrams, Iain Chaplin

The meeting was started at 1400.

The first subject was the 2007 budget.

The effect on us will be minimal. 31 people have been let go at National Headquarters (NHQ). A copy of the new NHQ organizational chart was passed around.

Counterdrug will now be funded by our customers and not by NHQ.

No cuts yet to the cadet program. The uniform program is staying the same for now. Special activities have not been cut. We should check into corporate sponsors for cadets.

NHQ will reduce our aircraft numbers to 530. If our four airplanes are not used enough, they will be gone. NHQ may get rid of all of the older aircraft. They want to put them up for sale. There will be 38 new C182s with the glass cockpit. We want the 172s available for cadets and missions. Having three C182s may not help with missions.

The State has increased our budget from 50 thousand to 60 thousand.

The next subject was the Winter Boards. One of the agenda items that were sent to committee was unit staffing. There will be a revision to 20-1. Not all positions will have to be filled. We will not be required to appoint an external Aerospace Education (AE) person. Units need to do at least a minimal job, the basics for AE.

Another item that was sent to committee was that there may be a requirement for a refresher course on cadet protection.

Another was the subject of professional appointment. It was amended to make it retroactive. It got bogged down. They may want them to wait six months before being appointed. It should be continuous service. The Commander will make the decision.

The next item was the National Commander's report. Sixty-five (65) thousand members did not renew, though the numbers in Vermont are looking up.

The Wing Administrator programs are not only safe, but they may be utilized more.

Levels 2 and 3 (SLS/CLC) for senior member training will be redone. They may become online courses. The professional award name has changed to the General Benjamin Davis award.

Vanguard has taken over CAPMart.

There may be a reconsideration of *posse comitatus* (Military cannot do law enforcement). There are some units that are not using it as a test.

Uniform changes: No patches on the AF style blue uniform jacket and blue shirt. No date specified for removal, but we should make sure that they have been removed by November. Patches on the BDUs are optional.

There will be a new CAP distinctive uniform. Blue pants/skirt, white aviator shirt, black oxfords or plain black pumps. Not jacket yet, but it will probably be a military style. Black tee shirts are authorized with BDUs.

Reflections on Pentagon Briefing - There is no doubt that CAP's rapid and professional response to the hurricanes impressed the AF. In future disasters, natural or manmade, we can expect CAP to be part of the humanitarian response. CAP's reputation for performing traditional search and rescue missions is solid and even though the need is decreasing, we can expect AFRCC missions. USAF is drawing down its numbers. There may be missions for CAP to assume. USAF is impressed with WMIRS which has grown to meet the huge expectations put on it and is a highly functional control and reporting point for mission activity. Its benefits have been recognized by first AF, NORTHCOM as well as CAP headquarters, incident commanders and mission personnel. USAF has a high regard for CAP's communications capabilities and especially HF activities, but also repeater (airborne) two way communications in addition to cell phone, sat phone and e-mail.

The commanders will be given permissions for WMIRS. If they don't want to do the entry, they should find someone in the unit who likes computers and knows Emergency Services.

NER Commander's Call - There is \$11,500 extra for training. If we run out of money, we can apply for more. We need to get busy. There should be extra money in mid-summer for orientation flights.

"If you can't find the right person to do the job, don't fill it with just anyone."

Safety - There may be tough penalties for accidents. Pilots/Observers/Scanners may have to pay for damages, get suspended or have flight privileges revoked completely.

There will be a STRATOPS on May 12. They plan to standardize OPS. It will make it easier for us to help others and others to help us.

In July 2007, they will go back to having a SAREX competition.

Major Davidson and Captain Rouelle went to Bennington. They have two definite members and sixteen more interested. They got to see the new airplane. It's looking very positive that there will be a new squadron there.

New Hampshire Wing is interested in running joint glider exercises out of Springfield. Colonel Clark and Major Davidson will be meeting with the members of the squadron on 19 March.

Commanders should find others to do some of the required paperwork. We have asked for a lot of things, but we're only asking for what we really need. We need the safety people to start doing their reports. We also need to get the vehicle reports in. If we are not careful, we will not be able to get new vehicles. The reports need to be in on time. We need to know if you've sent the reports. Check to be sure that we got them.

Use the Wing Administrator, she is here to help. We are not going to threaten to get the reports.

Major Senor - Talked with Colonel Rowell about Memorial Day. They are gaining members. They have four new cadets. They are working on encampment and should have more information shortly.

2nd LT Chaplin - There will be another newsletter on March 30. If you have items you want included, please get them to him by March 20. He will send a copy of the newsletter to the WA and she will arrange for it to get onto the website. He will give a letter for the media to Colonel Clark.

Captain Kelly - They have running water! They also have three new members. Community members have been invited to the NIMS 700 training. We need the training for the HLS grants. They need the number of people attending the training by 4 April so that they can order enough booklets.

Major St. Louis - Membership is not growing. He is assigning people to do the report and having the cadets do some of the work. He has CAP brochures and such at his workplace.

1st LT Rabideau - Rutland won the Color Guard Competition. The squadron is growing a lot. They have run out of chairs. They have a very good PAO and one of their cadets made the front page of the local paper after saving her father's life. There is a letter going to the President and it is likely she will get a CAP award. The cadets will be helping the Chamber of Commerce with parking. They are going to do the marathon and are hoping to get two teams.

LT Colonel Daigle - Thanks to the squadrons that get their reports in on time. If things don't improve, it is not good. He has a booklet on transportation. It can be redistributed. It may be put on the website. No one can go to Canada with a CAP vehicle. No one responded when asked. A permit is needed and he will need to know in advance. He has a transportation budget. If you need routine repairs, he can pay out of his budget. Call or e-mail with questions. A lot of money was spent on 44065 and on NEK's vehicle. He will be working on the vehicle from VT005. He wants to work on 44069 and then swap with 44063 to make sure that all vehicles have been repaired. He can get a very fast response from NHQ. There are rehabilitation instructions online. If your vehicle needs repair, send the estimate to him. When you request reimbursement, he needs the original invoice and a VTCAPF 9. The VTCAPF 9 can be found on the website. If you do work without prior permission, you may not get

reimbursed. The tax exempt form is on the website. Let him and Colonel Clark know about out-of-state use at least 24 hours in advance. Make sure you have an emergency contact. Vehicle reports need to be in Wing Headquarters by the 4th of each month. Make sure you have a current CAP license before driving vehicles. To update your CAP license, send request to him. He will send the request to Colonel McManis. They try to get them done as soon as possible. CAP licenses will have the same expiration date as your State driver's license, so update them both at the same time. The new CAP licenses will have the expiration date on them. 44069 will be moving to Wing Headquarters.

LT Colonel Campbell - If you do not have a current CAP license, you cannot drive a CAP vehicle at all.

SUI - All squadrons have to be inspected before November. VT002 has been done. He will need help with VT004. He plans to do it the week before the open house. He will do VT005, VT033, VT006, VT009 and then VT007, if possible. He hopes to have Major Benckert and/or LT Colonel Fiorenza and LT Colonel Daigle for help. He needs someone to help with the Cadet Programs. The inspections are not a bad thing; they are a way to help the squadrons. It is an AF requirement. There will be no inspections in July or August. Too many activities. If the dates of the inspections are not good, please contact him to arrange for a better time.